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Gladys Baker  
May 3, 1970

UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on  
Agriculture

*150th Anniversary*  
*1820-1970*

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



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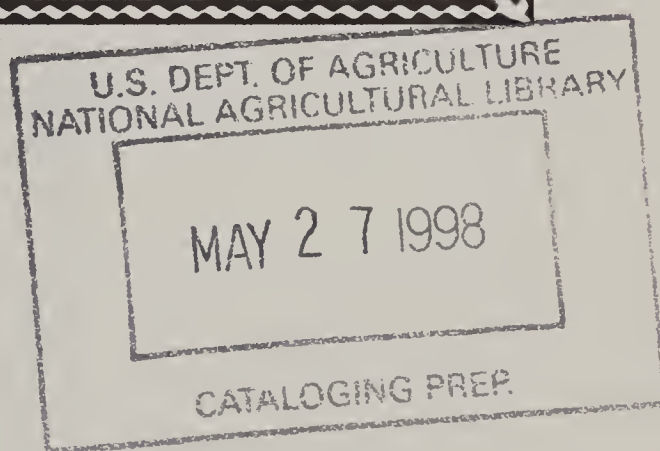
UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Committee on Agriculture

*150th Anniversary*

16th Congress, 1820 to  
91st Congress, 1970

MAY 3, 1970



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PERRY SHAW, *Staff Assistant*

DORIS FARMARCO, *Staff Assistant*



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 584

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

May 28, 1970.

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That there be printed, with illustrations, as a House document a brief history of the House Committee on Agriculture, and materials relating to it, in connection with its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary (1820–1970).

SEC. 2. In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed five thousand copies of such document for use of the Committee on Agriculture.

SEC. 3. Seventy-five copies shall be bound with a buckram cover and gold lettering for the use of the Committee on Agriculture.

(III)



*The House Committee on Agriculture meeting in executive session with the clerk and committee attorneys*



## FOREWORD

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On this, the 150th anniversary year of the creation of the House Committee on Agriculture, it is with satisfaction and pride that we review here the record of its accomplishments and contributions to America's largest and most vital industry.

Farming now employs almost 5 million workers—more than the combined employment in transportation, public utilities, the steel industry and the automobile industry. Additional millions are in jobs related to and dependent almost wholly on agriculture. Its assets total \$307 billion, equal to approximately two-thirds of the value of the current assets of all corporations in the United States, or about one-half of the market value of all corporation stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. The value of agriculture's production assets represents about \$50,000 for each farmworker.

American agriculture is the most efficient in the world, enabling the average family in this country to purchase its food requirements with only 16.5 percent of its disposal income after taxes. Never before has such a small portion of a worker's wages gone for food. Even in Western Europe today the average family spends about 25 percent of its income on groceries, and in the Soviet Union the figure is nearly 50 percent.

This achievement of American agriculture stems basically from the energy and skill of the farmers themselves, but without the fruits of research and marketing projects, the financial assistance available through farm ownership and operating loans, and the backstopping of price support programs, it is doubtful that American agriculture would have reached its present pinnacle of efficiency.

Over these many decades, the House Committee on Agriculture has played a key role in the formulation of legislation setting up innumerable farm programs which help the producer—and in the long run, every American as a consumer of food and fiber.

A perusal of this document should be both interesting and informative and give one a greater appreciation of agriculture's contribution to the American way of life.

W. R. POAGE, *Chairman.*



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## Committee on Agriculture

On motion of Mr. Williams of North Carolina, the House took up and proceeded to consider the resolution submitted by him on the 29th ultimo, for the appointment of a standing committee to be denominated "The Committee on Agriculture"; and the resolution was agreed to by the House, and ordered that the committee consist of seven members."<sup>1</sup>

Thus the Committee on Agriculture was created 150 years ago, on May 3, 1820. The population of the country was about 9 million and there were 213 Representatives in the House. Seven of these Representatives, under the chairmanship of Thomas Forrest, of Pennsylvania, were assigned to the new committee. Six other States were represented in this group: Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia. (The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry was founded December 9, 1825.)

Mr. Lewis Williams, a Representative from Surrey County, N.C., elected to the 14th and 13 succeeding Congresses, and known as the "Father of the House," was the sponsor of the resolution proposing a Committee on Agriculture, and at the time of its introduction, April 29, 1820, he had this to say on the floor of the House:

\* \* \* Gentlemen, say that there are, in this country, three interests, the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing. And how happens it, sir, that the agricultural, the great leading and substantial interest in this country, has no committee—no organized tribunal in this House to hear and determine on their grievances? If the commercial or manufacturing interests are affected, the cry resounds throughout the country; remonstrances flow in upon us; they are referred to committees appointed for the purpose of guarding them, and adequate remedies are provided. But, sir, when agriculture is oppressed, and makes complaint, what tribunal is in this House to hear and determine on the grievances?<sup>2</sup>

While originally consisting of seven Members, the committee gradually increased in size. In 1835 the 23d Congress raised the membership to nine, and then not until the 42d Congress, in 1871, was it again increased, this time to 11. From then on there was a steady increase until the maximum was reached in the 87th Congress, 1961, when 35 Members were assigned to the committee and its 14 subcommittees.

At the present time the committee, chaired by the gentleman from the 11th district of Texas, the Honorable W. R. (Bob) Poage, a Democrat, consists of 34

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<sup>1</sup> From "The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States," 16th Cong., 1st sess., May 3, 1820.

<sup>2</sup> From "Annals of the Congress of the United States," 16th Cong., 1st sess., Saturday, Apr. 29, 1820.

Members, 19 Democrats and 15 Republicans, and a nonvoting delegate, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

Chairman Poage succeeded Hon. Harold D. Cooley, a Democrat from North Carolina, in the 90th Congress. Mr. Cooley served eight terms as chairman, longer than any previous head of the committee. Some others who served for long periods were James W. Wadsworth (New York) and Gilbert N. Haugen (Iowa), both Republicans, who served for six terms each. Marvin Jones, a Texas Democrat, and William H. Hatch, a Missouri Democrat, each served as chairman for five terms. Edmund Deberry, a North Carolina Whig, served for four terms.

## JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of the committee as originally defined covered simply "subjects relating to agriculture." In the revision of the rules of the House in 1880, the Committee on Rules proposed the same simple rule: "subjects relating to agriculture: to the Committee on Agriculture." However, during consideration by the House the words "and forestry" were inserted on motion of Mr. Mark H. Dunnell, of Minnesota, who said that bills relating to tree culture had formerly gone to the Public Lands Committee, but more recently had gone to the Agriculture Committee. Thus the broad field of forestry was included in the committee's jurisdiction. More important was an amendment by Mr. D. Wyatt Aiken, of South Carolina, adding these words to the description of the committee's jurisdiction: "who shall receive the estimates and report the appropriations for the Agricultural Department." Although there existed an Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Agriculture reported on Department of Agriculture appropriations from 1880 until July 1, 1920, when another revision of the rules of the House returned to the Appropriations Committee all jurisdiction over appropriations.

It is interesting to note that 90 years ago the Agriculture Committee recommended to the Congress that the sum of \$213,000 be appropriated for the "support and maintenance of the Department of Agriculture." The projected cost of the food stamp program alone for fiscal 1971 will be about \$3,420,000 per day.

The committee has, by direct action of the House, secured jurisdiction over agriculturally related subjects. Thus the committee assumed jurisdiction for farm credit when the House referred to it the President's message dealing with the refinancing of farm-mortgage indebtedness on April 4, 1933, 73d Congress.

The jurisdiction as presently defined in the Rules of the House of Representatives was made effective January 2, 1947, as a part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and is as follows:

1. Agriculture generally.
2. Inspection of livestock and meat products.
3. Animal industry and diseases of animals.



4. Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves.
5. Agricultural colleges and experiment stations.
6. Forestry in general and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain.
7. Agricultural economics and research.
8. Agricultural and industrial chemistry.
9. Dairy industry.
10. Entomology and plant quarantine.
11. Human nutrition and home economics.
12. Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering.
13. Agricultural educational extension services.
14. Extension of farm credit and farm security.
15. Rural electrification.
16. Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products.
17. Crop insurance and soil conservation.

## HEARINGS

In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee conducts hearings, some public and some in executive session, to consider various legislative proposals. It affords the general public the opportunity to express its views. Among the witnesses are representatives of farm organizations, consumer groups, and ordinary citizens. The closed sessions are held to perfect the details of the legislation. In the 90th Congress (1967–68) the committee held 358 such meetings. As the role of the farmer becomes more technical and industrialized, so will the role of this committee become more complex.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

One of the very important functions of any committee is the reporting of legislation to the House. Designed to fully explain each piece of legislation approved by the committee, a “report” takes the form of a formal printed document and accompanies a bill as it goes to the House floor for action. It is also a reflection of the committee’s interests. In recent Congresses, the reports of the Committee on Agriculture generally fill one volume of a few hundred pages. By comparison, all of the reports from the Agriculture Committee from the 16th to the 49th Congresses are bound in one volume.<sup>3</sup> During the first 10 years the committee was

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<sup>3</sup> Reports of the Committee on Agriculture from the organization of the committee May 3, 1820, to the close of the 49th Congress, 1887, inclusive. Compiled, under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, by T. H. McKee, clerk, document room, U.S. Senate.

in existence, only one report was filed for each Congress (16th through the 20th). In nine of those early Congresses, no reports were filed by the committee (23d, 24th, 29th, 32d, 35th, and 39th through 41st). Beginning with the 46th, there was a sudden increase to more than 10 reports a Congress. During the 90th Congress, 62 reports were filed by the committee.

The titles of many of the early reports show an intense interest in the growth and manufacture of silk in this country. Eight of the 14 reports of the first 20 years concerned this subject, including the following report:

The Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred the letter of Peter S. Du Ponceau to the Speaker of the House, announcing his presentation to the House of a silken flag bearing the colors of the United States, made of American silk, reeled from cocoons, and prepared and woven by John D'Homergue, silk manufacturer, the entire process in the manufacture of the same have been performed in the city of Philadelphia, \* \* \*.

In our so-called enlightened day and age the title of "Production of Rain by Artillery Firing" may sound a little humorous, but it was written in dead earnest and the subject of House Report 786, 43d Congress, June 23, 1874. Following are some excerpts from this document:

#### REPORT:

The idea that rain can be produced by human agency, though sufficiently startling, is not one which, in this age of progress, ought to be considered as impossible of practical realization. When numerous observers, each independently of the others, arrive at an identical conclusion, in reasoning from facts which they have separately noticed in widely different fields, such conclusion is certainly worthy of respect, and may be assumed to contain the elements of truth. Of this nature is the idea under consideration—the belief that rain has been, and can be, brought on by heavy discharge of artillery.

If it should be conceded—as it must be from the facts that will be presented—that battles have produced changes in the weather, it would seem to be an eminently proper subject for legislative action to provide for an investigation of the conditions under which these changes can be made.

If lightning and thunder and rain have been brought on by the agency of man, when bloodshed and slaughter only were intended, this surely can be done without these latter concomitants. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

We do not propose that the Government should establish stations through the country, and proceed to furnish rain in different sections as it is needed; far from it. What is known of the subject is entirely insufficient as yet to warrant such a procedure.

When the power of steam was first discovered, the world was not ready to build steamships and railroads; nor when the first electric battery was made was it ready to lay telegraph cables across the Atlantic. But from small beginnings, that promised much less than this, how much has the world accomplished?

Yet it has only been done through experiments, patient and persistent; experiments which, had they been as costly as those which are now proposed, would never have been made, and man would have remained to this day unconscious of half his power. But the proposed

experiments, though costly, considered as an individual undertaking, would be but a trifle to a great nation like ours.

We have the powder, and we have the guns, and the men to serve them, and we ought not to leave to other nations and to after-ages the task of solving the great question as to whether the control of the weather is not, to a useful extent, within the reach of man.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Of course, there have been many momentous and historical reports on legislation by the committee which have had a profound and lasting effect on the agricultural community and the Nation. The first reference to a Department of Agriculture was in "Ho. of Reps. Rep. No. 595," April 12, 1842:

Report: The Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred the petition of Joseph L. Smith and others, praying for the establishment of a department of agriculture and education, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of petitioners.

Proposals for a Department of Agriculture were made many times and in House Report 321 of August 5, 1856, the committee had this to say:

Agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity. It is the substratum of all other interests; and the degree of advancement which marks the progress of our country and its people in wealth, enterprise, education, and substantial independence, is measured by the prosperity of its rural interests. It is one of those arts which, from the earliest periods, have been deservedly held in the highest estimation. One of the first injunctions upon our original progenitor, after his expulsion from the Garden of Eden, was that he should "till the soil" \* \* \*

It was not until 1862 that a favorable report was acted on which led to the establishment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on May 15, 1862. But it was not of Cabinet rank. The first Commissioner of Agriculture was Isaac Newton, who inherited the staff of nine employees and facilities of the Agricultural Division of the Patent Office. The embryo department, a year later, had a horticulturist, a chemist, an entomologist, a statistician, an editor, and 24 others. Experimental work was done in a propagating garden bounded by what is now Madison and Adams Drives, and Fourth and Sixth Streets. When no longer needed by the Union Army for a cattle yard, a larger area between Independence and Constitution Avenues, and 12th and 14th Streets was transferred to the Department. The appropriation for the first year was \$80,000.

Although there were many who urged that the Department be an executive department with a secretary who would be a member of the President's Cabinet, it was 27 years before Congress elevated it to a Cabinet status in 1889. There were then 488 employees and an annual appropriation of \$1.1 million.

In one of the early reports recommending a separate department for agriculture, there is a comment on lobbying which is worth noting:

\* \* \* The commercial and manufacturing interests, being locally limited and centralized, can easily combine and make themselves felt in the halls of legislation, and in the executive



departments of the Government. Not a session of Congress passes without this being clearly and sometimes painfully evident. New York and Lowell have often more immediate influence in directing and molding national legislation than all the farming interests in the country. Agriculture, clad in homespun, is very apt to be elbowed aside by capital, attired in ten-dollar Yorkshires. \* \* \*

## SOME LEGISLATIVE LANDMARKS

A history of the committee would not be complete without briefly discussing some of the major, long-lasting pieces of legislation developed by the members of the committee. Although there are hundreds of public laws on the books originating with the Committee on Agriculture, this printing will mention but a handful.

### MEAT INSPECTION

About the turn of the century, Upton Sinclair's novel "The Jungle," describing the appalling conditions in a Chicago slaughterhouse, made the public aware of the lack of sanitation in meat handling and brought on a clamor for Federal meat inspection.

The Meat Inspection Act of 1906, calling for a mandatory inspection of meat entering interstate commerce, was enacted in connection with appropriations under the heading "Bureau of Animal Industry" in the Department of Agriculture Appropriations Act, 1907. Since this was essentially a 1-year appropriation act, the measure was reenacted in 1907 with inclusion of the word "hereafter," which extended provisions of the law for an indefinite period. The act was restructured and modernized by the passage of the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967. The inspection service was strengthened and broadened and now includes *all* meat destined for human consumption. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wholesome Meat Act on December 15, 1967, one of the witnesses to the signing at the White House was Upton Sinclair. He died a few months later. His writings had stirred the public to demand passage of the original act six decades earlier.

### FARM CREDIT

In 1916, because of a need for farmer-oriented, long-term mortgage credit, the original Federal land bank system was instituted. In 1923, a permanent system of 12 Federal intermediate credit banks was organized, not to make loans to individual farmers, but to discount or purchase short-term notes of farmers and stockmen given to privately capitalized local lending institutions.

An executive order of March 27, 1933, creating the Farm Credit Administration, brought the land bank system and intermediate credit banks under its supervision.



These measures were not handled by the Agriculture Committee, but as mentioned earlier in the discussion on jurisdiction, the complicated field of farm credit was assumed by the committee when the President's message was referred to it by action of the House in 1933.

The first major farm credit action by the committee was the Farm Credit Act of 1933, although a few months earlier there were included in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 some amendments to the Federal Farm Loan Act. The Farm Credit Act established the banks for cooperatives, and the production credit associations. In the years since then this committee has provided the means for complete farmer ownership and there was notable legislation in this regard in 1953, 1954, and 1955, and 1968, broadening the system into a complete farm credit service and reaffirming the intent of Congress to make the farm credit banks an integral part of private enterprise in the United States.

Mr. R. B. Tootell, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, testifying before the committee on the 1968 legislation, said:

Assuming Congress sees fit to enact H.R. 19418 at its present session, as the Farm Credit Administration urgently recommends, that should be the final legislation for completing retirement of the Government capital with which we have been actively concerned for the last 15 years.

Congress did enact H.R. 19418 and Public Law 90-582 was signed by the President October 17, 1968. The Federal land banks, all of the 446 production credit associations, and all of the 13 banks for cooperatives now have retired all Government capital.

#### FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

The Farmers Home Administration, established under terms of the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1946, fills a need for financial assistance to individuals and rural communities unable to obtain help from conventional sources.

The agency may make direct and insured farmownership loans to farmers and ranchers for acquiring, enlarging, or improving farms, including dwellings and farm buildings, land and water development, forestry development, and the development of recreation and other nonfarm enterprises on farms for augmenting a farm family's income.

Direct and insured soil and water loans to farmers, ranchers, and nonoperator owners for land and water development use and conservation also are authorized.

One of the newest and potentially one of the most beneficial of all FHA programs to rural America is that for direct and insured loans, and grants, to small communities for the planning and construction of water and sewage systems. Authorized under legislation sponsored by Chairman Poage of the House Agriculture Committee and Senator George D. Aiken, Republican of Vermont, of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the new program provides assistance to communities of not more than 5,500 population which because of their size were

not eligible for similar Federal aid programs serving larger towns and cities and administered by other Government departments.

Another vital service rendered by the Farmers Home Administration has been that of making direct emergency loans in designated areas which have been hard hit by natural disasters. These loans are made to eligible farmers, ranchers, or oyster planters, and to private domestic corporations or partnerships engaged primarily in farming, ranching, or oyster planting.

Still another of the many programs administered by the Farmers Home Administration is that of making insured loans for rural rental and cooperative housing to individuals, corporations, associations, trusts, or partnerships to provide moderate cost rental or cooperative housing and related facilities for elderly persons and other persons of low and moderate income in rural areas.

### COMMODITY PROGRAMS

On March 16, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's message to Congress had a brief but urgent plea to do something about the financial plight of the Nation's farmers. In part, the President had this to say about a measure he was proposing:

Deep study and joint counsel of many points of view have produced a measure which offers great promise of good results. I tell you frankly that it is a new and untrod path, but I tell you with equal frankness that an unprecedented condition calls for the trial of new means to rescue agriculture. If a fair administrative trial of it is made and it does not produce the hoped-for results. I shall be the first to acknowledge it and advise you.

Just 4 days later, on March 20, Hon. Marvin Jones, then chairman of the committee, submitted to the Congress House Report 6, to relieve the existing national economic emergency by increasing agricultural purchasing power. On May 12, 1933, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 was signed into law and began a voyage down the untrod paths of commodity controls, using marketing agreements and orders along with processing taxes and other tools to increase the income of farmers. The Congress is still traveling this sometimes rough path and even this day is working on perfecting the law to reflect the marketing conditions as they exist today.

In 1936, the Supreme Court in *United States v. Butler*, declared invalid the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizing production adjustment programs involving processing taxes and benefit payments. The question as to whether Congress had the constitutional power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce in agricultural commodities through marketing agreements and orders as provided in the act was not before the court. Lower Federal court decisions had differed on the question, and in two cases courts had held that the marketing agreement and order provisions were inseparable from the production adjustment provisions which fell in the *Butler* case. As a consequence



of these decisions doubt had been cast on the validity of all the agreements and orders, and a demoralizing price situation was developing, particularly in the dairy industry in New England.

The committee was of the opinion that Congress had the power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce in agricultural commodities in the manner provided in the act, and that an examination of the text and organization of the act and its history showed these provisions were effective independently of the production adjustment provisions, and the committee also felt that that view would find support in the Supreme Court.

In House Report 468, March 24, 1937, the committee said:

Whatever may be the case, in order that whatever decision which may ultimately be rendered with respect to these provisions may turn on their constitutional validity rather than on their separability, and in order that express authority be given to enter into new agreements and orders in the areas in which they are necessary, it is highly desirable that these provisions be reenacted.

The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 became law on June 3, 1937.

Meanwhile, in the previous Congress (74th), the committee reported to the House in Report No. 1973, February 6, 1936, a bill to provide permanently for the control and prevention of soil erosion, thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, and to economically aid the farmer by means of payments for instituting conservation practices. The need for this type of legislation was obvious to the Nation because of the vast dust storms that were then ravaging large parts of the country. President Roosevelt in one of his farm messages recognized the problem and said:

The extent of the usefulness of our great natural inheritance of land and water depends on our mastery of it. We are now so organized that science and invention have given us the means of more extensive and effective attacks upon the problems of nature than ever before. We have learned to utilize water power, to reclaim deserts, to re-create forests and to redirect the flow of population. Until recently we have proceeded almost at random, making many mistakes.

To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the provisions of the bill, there was also established the Soil Conservation Service within the Department. The bill was signed into law on April 27, 1935, Public Law 46, 74th Congress. Subsequent legislation authorized development of flood "prevention" projects on upstream watersheds, small waterflow retarding structures as distinguished from large flood "control" dams on rivers built by the U.S. Army Engineers.

Another milestone in agricultural legislation was the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, a basis for much of our present-day law, reported to the House in Report No. 1645, 75th Congress, and signed into law February 16, 1938, Public Law 75-430. This act broadened the Soil Conservation Act, provided for assistance in the marketing of agricultural commodities for domestic consumption and export, provided for price support loans for wheat, corn, cotton, and other

agricultural commodities, authorized parity payments for corn, wheat, tobacco, cotton, and rice, when funds were appropriated therefor, provided for farm marketing quotas for tobacco, corn, wheat, cotton, and rice, and established the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The act was amended many, many times in the ensuing years, the last time being in the 90th Congress when the 1965 act was extended to 1970. At that time the committee in its Report No. 1374, 90th Congress, had this to say:

The main problem in American agriculture remains one of overcapacity. This capacity will someday be necessary to feed the unborn millions. In the meantime it is felt that this basic legislation must continue in order to preserve and to maintain the farm economy of this country against its future needs.

#### SUGAR PROGRAM

Another important legislative concern of the committee is in the area of sugar. The first statute authorizing the imposition of sugar quotas on all areas supplying the U.S. market, including the mainland cane sugar area, the domestic beet sugar areas, and Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, was the Jones-Costigan Sugar Act, approved in May 1934 as an amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933. This act also authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to impose a processing tax on sugar and to enter into contracts with domestic growers providing for payments on a production limited to area quotas. When the 1936 Supreme Court decision in the *Butler* case invalidated the production control and processing tax provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the sugar quotas were, nevertheless, continued in effect and were subsequently revised and reenacted in the Sugar Act of 1937. This act also provided for payments to producers of sugarcane and sugar beets who complied with specific conditions relating to child labor, farm wages, acreage allotments, soil conservation, and for payments to producers who were also processors and who have paid to other producers fair prices for sugar beets or sugarcane.

The Sugar Act of 1937 was originally scheduled to expire in 1940. However, it was extended to 1941, then from 1941 to 1944, from 1944 to 1946, and again from 1946 through 1947. The quota limitations were lifted twice by Presidential proclamation, once during scare buying in the latter part of 1939 and again from 1942 through 1947 during the war emergency.

The Sugar Act of 1948 superseded the 1937 act and extended the sugar program through December 31, 1952. The new legislation did not change the basic objectives of the 1937 act but it did change the method of establishing quotas by assigning a fixed quota to the domestic areas and the Philippines rather than a percentage of the estimated requirements.

In the committee Report No. 796, (80th Cong.) the committee felt that this was but a temporary measure and said:

It should be pointed out that this bill is a short-term measure designed to meet postwar adjustment problems in the production and distribution of sugar. \* \* \* The committee believes



that it should be made abundantly clear that the distribution of the American sugar market among the producers of the United States and foreign countries and the provision for the establishment of quotas for the ensuing 5 years on the basis provided for in this bill is not intended to establish, and should not be construed as establishing, a permanent production and distribution pattern nor as waiving American producers' rights to such portions of the American market as they can supply at the conclusion of the 5-year period covered by the bill. On the contrary, it should be emphasized that this bill is designed to meet the problems of the temporary postwar transition period and is not to be regarded as the establishment of longtime national sugar policy.

In 1951, the committee again reviewed the sugar program and the need for continuing protection for the domestic industry and in September of 1951 the 1948 act was amended and extended through 1956. In May 1956, the act was again amended and extended through 1960. About that time we were beginning to realize that the new Castro regime in Cuba was anything but friendly, so the committee prepared legislation which would enable the President to reduce or eliminate the quota for Cuba and extend the Sugar Act for 3 months. The Cuban quota for 1960 was about 2½ million tons and was the economic backbone of the Cuban economy. The President did reduce the quota for 1960 and then reduced it to zero in 1961. This Cuban quota has always been treated separately in later legislation in the hope that this island neighbor will return to the family of American free nations and the quota will be available to them again.

On March 10, 1961, the committee reported to the House legislation which would again extend the act to June 30, 1962. The final act of approving the conference report was on March 29, just in time for the President to sign the bill into law on March 31, the day the act was to expire.

On June 15, 1962, the committee in Report No. 1829 again proposed to the Congress that the Sugar Act be extended to December 31, 1966, and assigned percentage quotas to 23 foreign countries.

Sugar legislation is always initiated in the House of Representatives because it is revenue producing, and by tradition all revenue acts originate in the House. So again in 1965 the committee considered sugar and reported to the House the Sugar Act Amendments of 1965, which extended the 1948 act to 1971 and assigned percentage quotas to 30 foreign nations. The committee, in assigning these foreign quotas, found it was impossible to develop them on a statistical formula basis, so it considered the ability of each country to supply sugar to the United States, friendship for the United States, trade with the United States, support of U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the United Nations and the OAS, and various other economic factors.

From this brief outline, it can be seen that the committee has given great concern to the supplying of sugar to the American consumer, but by this legislation it has guaranteed the American housewife plentiful supplies of this highly nutritious commodity at a reasonable and uniform cost.

## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

One of the most successful pieces of farm legislation has been the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. However, this was not a product of the Agriculture Committee. The Rural Electrification Administration was created by an Executive order under authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 and then statutory provision for the agency was made in 1936. In 1939, REA became part of the Department of Agriculture and it was not until the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 that it came under the Agriculture Committee's jurisdiction.

Immediately thereafter, in the 80th Congress, the present chairman, Mr. Poage, sought to significantly change the act by adding loans for rural telephones. He was not successful until the following Congress when his bill was reported to the House in Report No. 246. The report mentions the fact that only about 42 percent of rural America had telephones. Today there is hardly a home without some telephone service. New loans are still being made, not solely for new service but primarily to update present equipment. On the early lines it was not uncommon to have eight- and 10-party lines, and this has been reduced to a maximum of four with a new goal of not more than two to a line. Also all antiquated equipment is being replaced to make all systems compatible with each other. The telephone loan program, like the electric loan program, has been an extremely successful program.

## FOOD FOR THE U.S. NEEDY

From an original concept of distributing surplus farm commodities through relief programs, the food distribution activities of the Department of Agriculture now are of a scope representing billions of dollars annually in expenditures.

Authorized under measures sponsored by this committee, these activities include not only distribution free of commodities but the food stamp, school lunch, breakfast, and milk programs. In March of this year some 5 million needy persons were sharing in the food stamp program and 4 million others in the commodities program. These stamps augment the income of recipients and enable them to buy foods of their choice at retail stores, while numerous packaged food items are distributed under the commodities program. For the current fiscal year the food stamp program received an appropriation of \$610 million, and the President recommended \$1.25 billion be appropriated for fiscal 1971. Under the National School Lunch Act approximately 40 percent of the 51.2 million schoolchildren in the country received lunches either free or at a discounted price during the peak month of operation in 1969.



## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

With America enjoying the abundance of its farms while peoples in many parts of the world were starving and ill clad, legislation was enacted under the title "Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954" authorizing donations and sales of surplus U.S. food and fiber commodities for foreign currencies.

Title I of the act authorizes sales for the local currencies of the recipient nation, with payments deposited to the account of the U.S. Treasury. The currencies then are used in various ways, such as maintenance of U.S. diplomatic and mutual defense activities within that country, and for loans for economic development of the foreign nation involved. Title II makes agricultural commodities available free to meet famine or other urgent or emergency relief needs, and also to promote economic and community development in friendly developing countries. The Commodity Credit Corporation makes available the surplus commodities which it has acquired under crop price support programs, and the Agency for International Development administers the title II programs.

Amended some since its original inception but still popularly known as P.L. 480 (Public Law 480 of the 83d Cong.), the program of sales has brought the United States deposits amounting to \$12.3 billion up to June 30, 1969. Under one amendment to the original act the provision is made for a progressive shift from foreign currency sales to dollar credit sales, the shift to be completed by December 31, 1971. Experience has shown that some nations which originally were able only to buy with their local currencies now are good customers paying for our farm commodities with cash or firm dollar credit.

## CONCLUSION

When this committee was established in 1820 the Nation was in its infancy. The population that year was 9,618,000, having more than doubled from the count of 3,929,000 in the first census, which was taken in 1790. By 1862, when the Department of Agriculture was founded, the population was up to 33 million. It had reached almost 107 million in 1920 when the committee marked its centennial, and the Census Bureau estimate for May of 1970 is 205 million.

So, with a glance back at the population growth of the United States, and a look ahead at the prospective 300 million-plus inhabitants in the year 2,000, it becomes unmistakably clear that nothing is more important to the welfare of Americans of the very near future than the maintenance of a healthy agriculture—the continuing prime objective of this committee as it passes another important milestone.





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## APPENDIX

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
91st Congress



Chairman W. R. (Bob) Poage, Democrat, of Waco, Tex.



Ranking Minority Member PAGE BELCHER, Republican, of Tulsa, Okla.





JOHN L. McMILLAN (D.)  
South Carolina, Vice Chairman



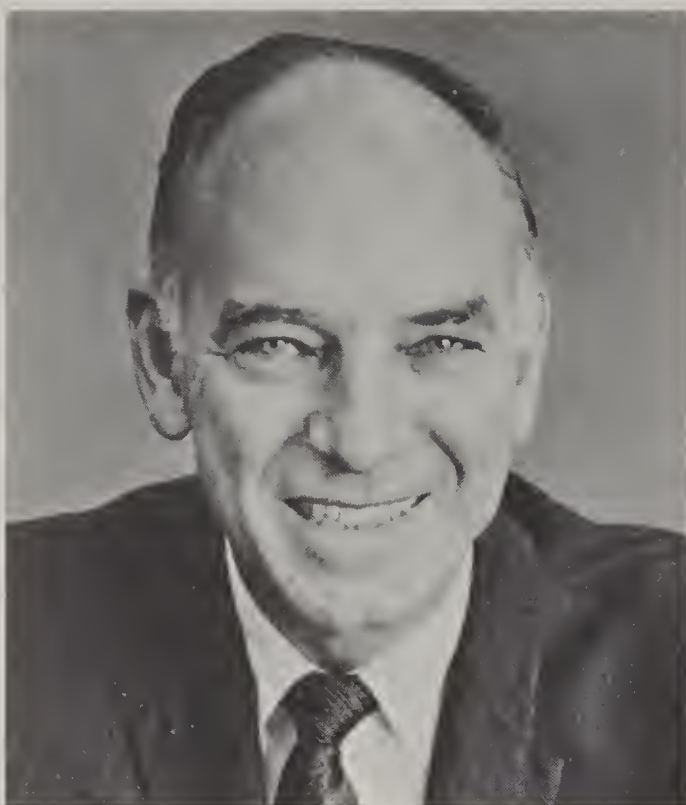
THOMAS G. ABERNETHY (D.)  
Mississippi



WATKINS M. ABBITT (D.)  
Virginia



FRANK A. STUBBLEFIELD (D.)  
Kentucky



GRAHAM PURCELL (D.)  
Texas



MASTON O'NEAL (D.)  
Georgia



THOMAS S. FOLEY (D.)  
Washington



ELIGIO DE LA GARZA (D.)  
Texas





JOSEPH P. VIGORITO (D.)  
Pennsylvania



WALTER B. JONES (D.)  
North Carolina



G. V. MONTGOMERY (D.)  
Mississippi



B. F. SISK (D.)  
California





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Arkansas



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ED JONES (D.)  
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JOHN MELCHER (D.)  
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CATHERINE MAY (R.)  
Washington





WILLIAM C. WAMPLER (R.)  
Virginia



GEORGE A. GOODLING (R.)  
Pennsylvania



CLARENCE E. MILLER (R.)  
Ohio



ROBERT B. MATHIAS (R.)  
California





WILEY MAYNE (R.)  
Iowa



JOHN M. ZWACH (R.)  
Minnesota



THOMAS S. KLEPPE (R.)  
North Dakota



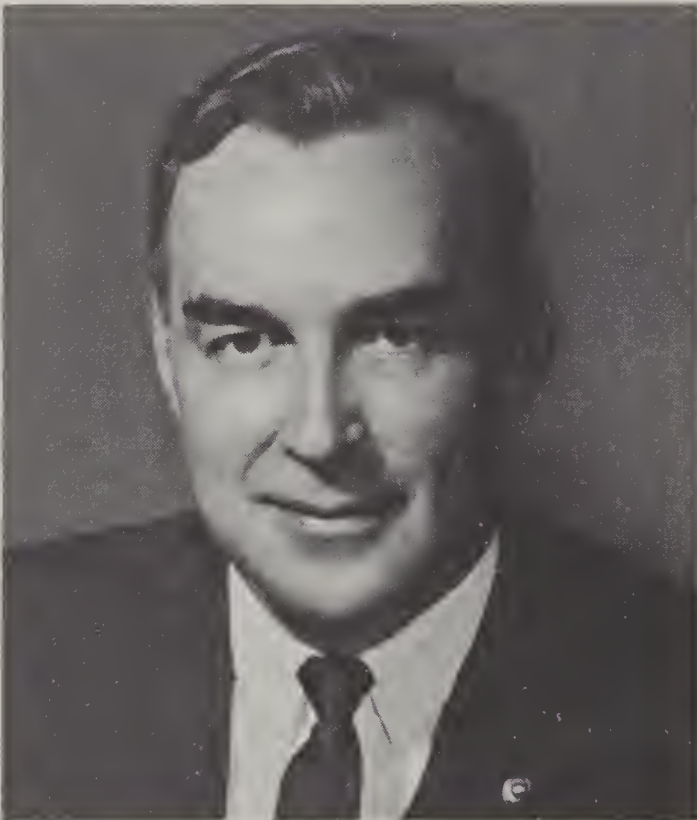
ROBERT D. PRICE (R.)  
Texas



JOHN T. MYERS (R.)  
Indiana



KEITH G. SEBELIUS (R.)  
Kansas



MARTIN B. MCKNEALLY (R.)  
New York



WILMER MIZELL (R.)  
North Carolina



JORGE L. CÓRDOVA  
Resident Commissioner  
Puerto Rico





Staff of the Committee on Agriculture: *Front row* Catherine Bernhardt, Christine S. Gallagher, Perry Shaw, Martha Hannah, Katherine Holstead, Marjorie Johnson, Lydia Vacin, Betty Prezioso, John A. Knebel; *Back row* Lacey C. Sharp, L. T. (Tex) Easley, Hyde H. Murray, George F. Misslbeck and Fred Ward.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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BILL D. BURLISON, Missouri

ROBERT B. MATHIAS, California  
ROBERT D. PRICE, Texas  
WILMER D. MIZELL, North Carolina

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ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN, New York  
B. F. SISK, California  
JOHN MELCHER, Montana

MRS. CATHERINE MAY, Washington  
WILEY MAYNE, Iowa  
JOHN M. ZWACH, Minnesota  
THOMAS S. KLEPPE, North Dakota  
ROBERT D. PRICE, Texas  
KEITH G. SEBELIUS, Kansas

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BILL D. BURLISON, Missouri

JOHN T. MYERS, Indiana  
WILLIAM C. WAMPLER, Virginia  
WILMER D. MIZELL, North Carolina



## TOBACCO

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 FRANK A. STUBBLEFIELD, Kentucky  
 WALTER B. JONES, North Carolina

WILLIAM C. WAMPLER, Virginia  
 CLARENCE E. MILLER, Ohio  
 WILMER D. MIZELL, North Carolina

## SPECIAL ACTION SUBCOMMITTEES

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 ELIGIO DE LA GARZA, Texas  
 BILL ALEXANDER, Arkansas

CHARLES M. TEAGUE, California  
 GEORGE A. GOODLING, Pennsylvania  
 WILEY MAYNE, Iowa

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 B. F. SISK, California  
 ED JONES, Tennessee

MRS. CATHERINE MAY, Washington  
 GEORGE A. GOODLING, Pennsylvania  
 JOHN T. MYERS, Indiana

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 WATKINS M. ABBITT, Virginia  
 GRAHAM PURCELL, Texas

THOMAS S. KLEPPE, North Dakota  
 ROBERT B. MATHIAS, California  
 KEITH G. SEBELIUS, Kansas

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WALTER B. JONES, North Carolina  
 GRAHAM PURCELL, Texas  
 ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN, New York  
 JOHN MELCHER, Montana

GEORGE A. GOODLING, Pennsylvania  
 CLARENCE E. MILLER, Ohio  
 MARTIN B. MCKNEALLY, New York



# CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

*from the 16th to the 91st Congress*

Years	Con- gress	Chairman	State	Party
1819-21	16	Thomas Forrest.....	Pa.....	
1821-23	17	Josiah Butler.....	N.H.....	Democrat.
1823-25	18	Stephen Van Rensselaer.....	N.Y.....	
1825-27	19	Stephen Van Rensselaer.....	N.Y.....	
1827-29	20	Stephen Van Rensselaer.....	N.Y.....	
1829-31	21	Ambrose Spencer.....	N.Y.....	Democrat.
1831-33	22	Erastus Root.....	N.Y.....	
1833-35	23	Abraham Bockee.....	N.Y.....	Jackson Democrat.
1835-37	24	Abraham Bockee.....	N.Y.....	Jackson Democrat.
1837-39	25	Edmund Deberry.....	N.C.....	Whig.
1839-41	26	Edmund Deberry.....	N.C.....	Whig.
1841-43	27	Edmund Deberry.....	N.C.....	Whig.
1843-45	28	Edmund Deberry.....	N.C.....	Whig.
1845-47	29	Joseph H. Anderson.....	N.Y.....	Democrat.
1847-49	30	Hugh White.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1849-51	31	Nathaniel S. Littlefield.....	Maine...	Cass Democrat.
1851-53	32	John G. Floyd.....	N.Y.....	Democrat.
1853-55	33	John L. Dawson.....	Pa.....	Democrat.
1855-57	34	David P. Holloway.....	Ind.....	People's Party.
1857-59	35	William G. Whitelev.....	Del.....	Democrat.
1859-61	36	Martin Butterfield.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1861-63	37	Owen Lovejoy.....	Ill.....	Republican.
1863-65	38	Brutus J. Clay.....	Ky.....	Unionist.
1865-67	39	John Bidwell.....	Calif.....	Unionist.
1867-69	40	Rowland E. Trowbridge.....	Mich.....	Republican.
1869-71	41	John T. Wilson.....	Ohio.....	Republican.
1871-73	42	John T. Wilson.....	Ohio.....	Republican.
1873-75	43	Charles Hays.....	Ala.....	Republican.
1875-77	44	John H. Caldwell.....	Ala.....	Democrat.
1877-79	45	Augustus W. Cutler.....	N.J.....	Democrat.
1879-81	46	James W. Covert.....	N.Y.....	Democrat.
1881-83	47	Edward K. Valentine.....	Nebr.....	Republican.
1883-85	48	William H. Hatch.....	Mo.....	Democrat.
1885-87	49	William H. Hatch.....	Mo.....	Democrat.
1887-89	50	William H. Hatch.....	Mo.....	Democrat.
1889-91	51	Edward H. Funston.....	Kans.....	Republican.
1891-93	52	William H. Hatch.....	Mo.....	Democrat.
1893-95	53	William H. Hatch.....	Mo.....	Democrat.
1895-97	54	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1897-99	55	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1899-1901	56	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1901-03	57	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1903-05	58	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1905-07	59	James W. Wadsworth.....	N.Y.....	Republican.
1907-09	60	Charles F. Scott.....	Kans.....	Republican.
1909-11	61	Charles F. Scott.....	Kans.....	Republican.
1911-13	62	John Lamb.....	Va.....	Democrat.

CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
*from the 16th to the 91st Congress—Continued*

Years	Con- gress	Chairman	State	Party
1913-15	63	Asbury F. Lever.....	S.C.....	Democrat.
1915-17	64	Asbury F. Lever.....	S.C.....	Democrat.
1917-19	65	Asbury F. Lever.....	S.C.....	Democrat.
1919-21	66	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1921-23	67	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1923-25	68	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1925-27	69	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1927-29	70	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1929-31	71	Gilbert N. Haugen.....	Iowa.....	Republican.
1931-33	72	Marvin Jones.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1933-35	73	Marvin Jones.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1935-37	74	Marvin Jones.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1937-39	75	Marvin Jones.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1939-41	76	Marvin Jones.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1941-43	77	Hampton P. Fulmer.....	S.C.....	Democrat.
1943-45	78	Hampton P. Fulmer.....	S.C.....	Democrat.
1945-47	79	John W. Flannagan, Jr.....	Va.....	Democrat.
1947-49	80	Clifford R. Hope.....	Kans.....	Republican.
1949-51	81	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1951-53	82	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1953-55	83	Clifford R. Hope.....	Kans.....	Republican.
1955-57	84	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1957-59	85	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1959-61	86	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1961-63	87	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1963-65	88	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1965-67	89	Harold D. Cooley.....	N.C.....	Democrat.
1967-69	90	W. R. (Bob) Poage.....	Tex.....	Democrat.
1969-71	91	W. R. (Bob) Poage.....	Tex.....	Democrat.

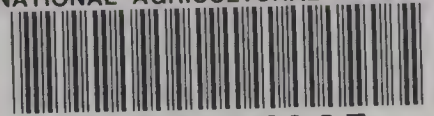








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